

Message Text

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S/S-MR.ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 272153

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 8760 ACTION SECSTATE

INFO MONROVIA 04 NOV 76

QUOTE

S E C R E T GENEVA 8760

NODIS

FROM SCHAUFEELE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJ: MEETING WITH LIBERIAN FONMIN DENNIS

1. I MET GOL FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS IN MY OFFICE
AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 4. DENNIS STATED HIS APPRECIATION
FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND SEEMED
TRULY RELIEVED THAT MY ATTITUDE REFLECTED THAT THE
USG IS STILL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES
OF THE RHODESIAN CONFERENCE'S SUCCESS.

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2. DENNIS HAS APPARENTLY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH

BISHOP MUZOREWA WHILE IN GENEVA AND THOUGH HE REITERATED THAT HE DOES NOT "HOLD A BRIEF" FOR THE BISHOP, HE IMPLIED AN EMPHATIC AND BASIC SUPPORT FOR MUZOREWA'S POSITION. HE INDICATED THAT GIVEN THE BISHOP'S WIDESPREAD POPULARITY WITHIN RHODESIA, HIS PRO-WESTERN ATTITUDE (DESPITE SOME DISENCHANTMENT) AND HIS MANY TIES TO THE US, HE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED IN ORDER TO AVOID "A GREATER DANGER." THE SCENARIO DENNIS FEARS IS ONE IN WHICH THE SUPERPOWERS, I.E., RUSSIA AND THE US, ANOINT NKOMO AS ZIMBABWE'S NEW LEADER. THIS COULD ONLY LEAD TO ANOTHER ANGOLA-LIKE SITUATION IN WHICH MUZOREWA WOULD TAKE THE TRAGIC SAVIMBI ROLE.

3. I EMPHASIZED TO HIM THAT THE US HAS NO FAVORITES AMONG THE NATIONALIST LEADERS. I CLEARED UP DENNIS' MISCONCEPTION THAT SOMEHOW WE HAD BEEN AVOIDING CONTACT WITH MUZOREWA. I EXPLAINED THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE BISHOP'S REFUSAL TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY IN LUSAKA AND SAID THAT I THOUGHT MY SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WITH MUZOREWA IN NEW YORK, SALISBURY AND NOW IN GENEVA HAD DONE MUCH TO CLEAR UP ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

4. I STRESSED THAT OUR GOAL IN GENEVA IS TO BE HELPFUL TO THE EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT IN THE BELIEF THAT ONCE THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED THE MAJOR HURDLE TOWARD MAJORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE WILL BE OVERCOME. I TOLD DENNIS THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO USE OUR PRESSURE AND INFLUENCE TO ATTAIN THIS GOAL AND HE RESPONDED THAT LIBERIA IS SIMILARLY WILLING TO USE ITS GOOD OFFICES.

5. DENNIS THEN RAISED THE QUESTION OF NAMIBIA, NOTING LIBERIA'S SPECIAL INTEREST IN THIS MATTER. I GENERALLY REVIEWED OUR ACTIVITIES IN THIS FIELD AND POINTED OUT THAT AFTER THE SECRETARY HAD MET WITH SAM NUJOMA IN NEW YORK IN LATE SEPTEMBER, NUJOMA SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH HIS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN LUSAKA. TO THIS DATE HE HAS NOT DONE SO DESPITE PRESIDENT KUANDA'S URGINGS. THERE ARE LIMITS TO HOW FAR THE

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SOUTH AFRICANS CAN GO, BUT IF SWAPO RESPONDS POSITIVELY, THERE IS AN EXCELLENT CHANCE FOR A CONFERENCE TO SETTLE THE NAMIBIA QUESTION. WHAT WE NEED NOW IS A FIRM INDICATION THAT SWAPO WILL NOT KEEP RAISING ITS DEMANDS.

5. DENNIS TOLD US THAT HE WILL BE LEAVING GENEVA ON SATURDAY. CATTO.
UNQUOTE KISSINGER.

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